



Kentucky Personnel Cabinet
Office of the Secretary Nikki Jackson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kentucky Celebrates Black History Month

FRANKFORT, KY (**February, 29, 2008**) – On February 29th at the State Office Building Auditorium, the Personnel Cabinet concluded the celebration of Black History Month with “A Lesson in Resiliency” delivered by Rev. Frank Smith, Jr., Executive Vice President of Simmons College of KY.

Rev. Smith highlighted Simmons College’s struggle to continue inspiring others toward a quest for knowledge, and the importance of staying focused on your vision. “As you reflect on Black History, you do not have to look far to discover valuable lessons of resiliency. You need only to look within our own Commonwealth to get the hopeful instruction you need, said Rev. Smith. He concluded his remarks by focusing on triumph, “When you fly – when you soar – when you achieve, every one else will achieve, and the next thing you know as you go up – Kentucky goes up.”

The celebrations showcased musical selections by soloist Paula M. Yarbrough and greetings from Nikki R. Jackson, Personnel Cabinet Secretary and Michelé Lawlis, Director of Office of HR Planning and Diversity Initiatives.

Delquan Dorsey, Sr., Director of the Governor’s Office of Minority Empowerment presented Secretary Nikki Jackson with a proclamation from Governor Beshear stating that February 29, 2008, be recognized as “Black History Recognition Day” in the Commonwealth.

Alicestyne Adams, Director of the Underground Railroad Research Center at Georgetown Kentucky African American Heritage Commission was on hand to announce \$20,000 in Lincoln Preservation Grants. The grants were awarded to projects that highlight African American heritage in relation to President Abraham Lincoln. These include an original play centered on Lincoln’s authorship of the Emancipation Proclamation, a museum exhibit focusing on Logan County General Stephen Burbridge, and an investigation seeking to identify and preserve the burial site of an African American regiment ambushed near Simpsonville during the Civil War. Recipients included the University of Louisville African American Theatre Program, Historic

Russellville, Inc. and Shelby County Historical Society. Special guests in attendance included Steve Mason, Executive Assistant Chief of Staff and Dr. James Chapman, Provost and VP for Academic Affairs, on behalf of Dr. Mary Sias, President of Kentucky State University; and Rev. Keith Tyler, Sr., Pastor Antioch Baptist Church, Lexington, KY and Rev., L.A. Newby, Pastor of the First Corinthian Baptist Church, Frankfort, KY representing the Board of Trustees for Simmons College of KY.

The Cabinet would like to thank everyone who took part in the celebration of the contributions of African Americans to our society and invites you join us in celebrating March as Women's History Month.

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